THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (d) The Central Passport Organisation is presently employing 564 casual labourers over varying period of time. The casual labourers were not engaged against any sanctioned post. They are deployed to work on an ad hoc basis wherever and whenever required, based on exigencies of work.

2. A Special Qualifying Examination was conducted by the Staff Selection Commission in 1993 for the benefit of casual labourers who fulfilled certain prescribed conditions of eligibility. 127 casual labourers, who have qualified in this exaimnation, have been offered regular posts of LDC in various passport offices. Whenever Group D posts fall vacant in passport offices, casual labourers are appointed against regular Group D posts based on their seniority.

Documentary on Mahatma Gandhi Circulated to Indian Mission

7973. SMT. BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many non-Indian are estimated to have seen the 13-reel documentary on Mahatma Gandhi circulated to Indian Missions abroad on the occasion of his 125th birth anniversary, by the External Publicity Division;

(b) how many films boxes and video cassettes were circulated;

(c) how much money was spent on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Video cassettes of the documentary, 'Mahatma' on Mahatma Gandhi have been provided to all 149 Indian Missions abroad. Missions have been actively publicising Gandhiji's message through exhibition of this film to audiences in Embassy premises and through loan to interested institutions. As a result of such screenings the film has been shown in most parts of the world. However, it is difficult to estimate the number of non-Indians who may have seen this documentary through such screenings because of the dispersed nature of such exhibitions.

(c) An amount of Rs. 2.6 lakhs has been spent on the film and its distribution abroad.

Foreign Journalists hosted by External Publicity Division

7974 SRI RAM RATAN RAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of foreign journalists and the institutions or media represented by them, hosted by the External Publicity Division in India during the last year;

(b) how much money was spent on them;

(c) what was the mode of selection of these journalists;

(d) whether Indian Journalists went abroad on similar schemes in return; and

(e) how much assistance was given to the foreign journalists visiting India and to whom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) The details of the names of the foreign journalists and the institutions or media represented by them, hosted by the External Publicity Division last year may be found in the enclosed list as per Statement. (*See* below).

(b) Approximately Rs. 38 lakhs was spent on them.

(c) These Journalists were selected on the basis of recommendations received from our Missions abroad.

(d) The External Publicity Division's hospitality programme is aimed at familiarising foreign journalists with India. It does not therefore apply to Indian journalists.

(e) Other visiting journalists were rendered assistance mainly in obtaining appointments/interviews with various Ministers, senior officials and other dignitaries. They were also helped in accreditation, customs and visa extension formalities as and when appropriate.

Statement

P Division's hospitality programme-April' 94- March'95

Time of visit to India	Name	News organization and country
April 10-22, 1994	Mr. Daniel Bastien	Senior jouralist LES ch ECHOZ France Nihon Kezai Shimbum
Do.	Mr. Makato Kawosoe	Japan
Do.	Mr. Mochen Reinert	Neues Deutshsland Gernanany
Do.	Ms. Sara Cristaldi (Economic Journalists)	Mondo Economico Italy
May, 1994	Mrs. Gratiela Rapeanu	Romania T.V. Team
Do.	Mr. Traian Rocsoveanu	Do.
Do.	Mr. airacea Stir	Do.
May, 1994	Mrs. Daniella Kaneva	Special Corresponden
Do.	Mr. Rumen Hadjivanov	Bulgaria Televeision Cameraman
July, 1994	Mr. Haroon Habib	Correspondent B.S.S.(Bangladesh)
August, 1994	Dr. Roberto Ceredi (Economic Corr.)	Correspondent IL. Mondo. (Italy)
July-August, 1994	Mr. QIU Yun Sheng	Chief Editor, Tiajin Daily
Do.	Mr. Hao Shuliang	Director, supplement Deptt. China People's consltative Committee
Do.	Mr. GU. Xuelin	Newspaper Vice Dir. "China Education" Newspaper
Do.	Mr. Jiang Yonggang	Photographer, "China pictorial"
Do.	Mr. Cat Dl.	Official. All China Journalists Association
September, 1994	Mr. Kostas Iordanidis	Editor-in-Chief "Kathimerini" Greece
Sept-Oct., 1994	Mr. Luis Mazarraza Mowinckle	Journalist from Spain
November, 1994	Mr. Syed El Khatib	Editor, "El Enqaz El Watani' Sudan
November, 1994	Mr. Ahmed Boukyout	Al Bayne-Morocco
December, 1994	Mr. Hussain Mansour	Dy. Dir. Gen. Saana. Syria
January, 1995	Mr. Greg Sheridan	Correspondent "The Australain"
February, 1995	Mr. Gunther Schilling	Editor, "Franfurter Alegemeine Zeijung" (FAZ)
Do.	Dr. Monica Zimmermann	"Der Tegesspiegel", Berlin
February, 1995	Mr. George Aryee	Mangaging Director, Ghanian Times
Do.	Mr. Kabral Blay Amihere	President of the Ghana Journalists Association
Do.	Mr. Elvis Aryeh	Chief Editor, Daily graphics
February, 1995	Mrs. Natalya Polezhayava	Editor-in-Chief "Rossiskya Gazeta"